

**A method for treating or preventing a functional vitamin B12 deficiency in an individual and medical compositions for use in said method**

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**Abstract**

A method and medical composition for the treatment and/or prevention of a functional vitamin B12 deficiency in an individual that is brought about as a consequence of oxidative stress on biochem. pathways. The functional vitamin B12 deficiency may eventually present as dementia, other neuropsychiatric abnormality and/or vascular disease. The method involves the administration of a medical composition that supplies a cobalt-sulfur bond in the upper  $\beta$ -ligand of an intracellular cobalamin mol. thereby facilitating intracellular processing of cobalamin. The cobalt-sulfur bond may be provided directly by administration of a thiolatocobalamin, such as glutathionyl-cobalamin or indirectly by the co-administration of vitamin B12 (or a derivative thereof) with a sulfur-containing mol., such as glutathione or a precursor thereof.

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**Carrier systems comprising vitamin B12-biodegradable microparticulate conjugates for peroral delivery of drugs, peptides/proteins and vaccines**

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